

TEXT STRUCTURES



Text structures refer to the way authors organize information in text. Recognizing the underlying structure of texts can help students focus attention on key concepts and relationships, anticipate what is to come, and monitor their comprehension as they read.

TEXT STRUCTURE	DEFINITION	GRAPHIC ORGANIZER	Transitions	QUESTIONS
Chronological, Process, or Sequence	Present ideas or events in the order in which they happen	Step by Step	 First, second, third later next before then finally after/later when since now/previously actual use of dates 	 What items, events, or steps are listed? Do they have to/always happen in this order? What sequence of events is being described? What are the major incidents that occur? How is this structure revealed in the text?
Cause and Effect	Provide explanations or reasons for phenomena	Cause #1 Cause #2 Effect Cause #3	 if/then reasons why as a result therefore because consequently since so that for hence due to thus 	 What happened? Why did it happen? What caused it to happen?
Problem/ Solution	Identify problems and pose solutions	Problem Solution	 problem is dilemma is if/then because so that question/answer puzzle is solved 	 What is the problem? Why is this a problem? Is anything being done to try to solve the problem? What can be done to solve the problem?
Compare and Contrast	Discuss two ideas, events, or phenomena, showing how they are different and how they are similar	Alike Different	 however nevertheless on the other hand but similarly although also in contrast/comparison different either/or in the same way/just as likewise where as yet 	 What items are being compared? In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different? What conclusion does the author reach about these items? What conclusion does the author reach about these items?
Definition or Description	Describes a topic by listing characteristics, features, attributes, and examples		 for example characteristics for instance such as including to illustrate 	 What person, place, thing or event is being described? What are the most important characteristics? How is it being described (what does it look like, how does it work, etc.)? What is important to remember about it?